

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

ORDINANCE NO. ORD: 18/08

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING SECTION 2-70, TITLED "MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND FARMLAND, AND HISTORIC TRUST FUND", OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, BY ADDING SUBSECTION 2-70.6 TITLED "OPEN SPACE POLICY."

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, as follows¹:

Section 1. §2-70.6 "Open Space Policy" is hereby added as follows:

a. The policy of the Borough of Watchung regarding the acquisition of open space recognizes that preservation of a reasonable amount of undeveloped land is necessary if the Borough is to maintain its current desirable ambiance.

b. The residents of the Borough have a high stake in the acquisition of open space and have demonstrated their support through authorizing the institution of a tax dedicated for this purpose. Residents and landowners shall be kept informed as to the activities of the Environmental Commission's open space activities and communication with the Environmental Commission is encouraged.

c. Acquisition needs to be undertaken as quickly and continuously as possible because the availability of appropriate sites will decrease as development continues within the Borough and the costs of acquisition may increase as open space decreases. The policy of the Borough shall be to leverage Borough resources through accessing County, State and Federal funds, through the use of grants and/or loans which may be serviced through existing revenues and other appropriate sources and gifts and bequests.

d. Open space acquisitions when taken as a whole must meet the needs of all the residents of the Borough. Thus, acquisitions are to include parklands and green zones, outdoor recreational facilities, farmlands, ecologically sensitive zones,

¹Editor's Note: The portions to be deleted are shown with strike-outs and will be deleted from the codified version of this Ordinance and the underlined portions will remain in the codified version of this Ordinance.

and sites of historical, cultural or scenic value. The policy of the Borough shall require that sites considered for acquisition be judged within the context of a Borough Open Space Plan. Generally, Borough ownership and/or control are considered desirable for public lands.

e. The acquisition of open space cannot be addressed in isolation from other public activities within the Borough or without regard to the status and plans of contiguous municipalities.

Section 2. Severability. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid for any reason whatsoever, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance which shall continue in full force and effect, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final adoption and publication according to law.

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

Michelle DeRocco, Clerk

Stephen K. Pote, Mayor

INTRODUCED BY: Black
PASSED: April 19, 2018
PUBLISHED:
ADOPTED: